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### CLAIM

What is claimed is:

1. A method for authenticating a digital signature key, the method comprising:
  - (a) preparing a record including an integrated combination of (1) indicia uniquely corresponding to the key, and (2) indicia of a covenant not to repudiate any digital signature made with the key except under specified conditions; and
  - (b) having an owner of the key perform a legally accepted execution of the record;whereby the owner enters into a covenant with any bearer of the record not to repudiate any digital signature made with the key except under the specified conditions.

2002-09-03 14:52:00